

REMARKS

Figure 1B was amended to include a prior art designation. A new formal drawing for Figure 1B, a copy which is enclosed, is simultaneously being forwarded to the Official Draftsperson by separate letter.

Claim 7 was amended to over come the rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claim 7 now correctly depends from claim 6.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 17 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated over White et al. (US 6,561,884).

In accordance with a belt-type embodiment, the Applicants have amended the claims to recite the positioning of the polishing pad relative to a first and second rotating drum (112). As shown, the rotating drums hold the polishing pad stretched therebetween. Then, the pad support, such as a platen is positioned between the drums and further used to counter balance forces of a wafer that is to be applied to the polishing pad. As shown in White et al., the roller 242 is used to change the direction of the pad 252, and is thus supported between rollers 242 and 246. These two rollers can be said to define the rotating drums of the present invention. With this construction being claimed, the actuator of the claimed invention would have to flex the polishing pad between the rollers 242 and 246 of White et al. However, White et al. does not teach such an arrangement. In fact, the construction of White et al. necessitates that rollers 242 and 246 be placed just before the wafer support 278/280.


For these reasons, the Applicants submit that White et al. fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 21 and 22 incorporate allowable subject matter. Claim 21 is original claim 1 combined with allowable claim 3. Claim 22 is original claim 1 combined with allowable claim 6. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that new claims 21 and 22 are allowable over the art of record.

A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6903. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No LAM2P309). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE DRAWINGS

Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 1B. As requested by the Examiner, Figure 1B was designated as "prior art." No other changes were made.

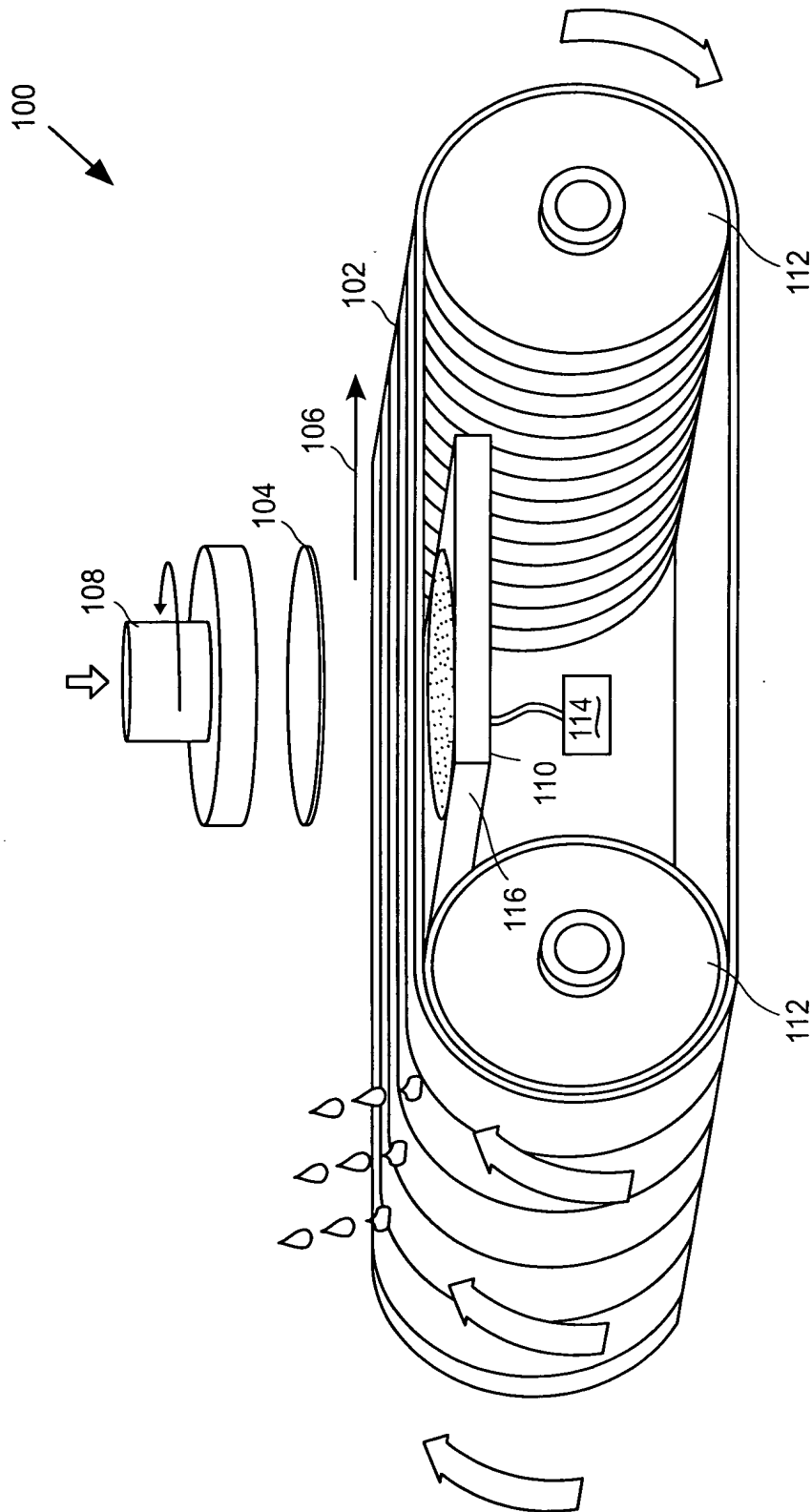


FIG. 1B
(Prior Art)